

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A ~~saponified ethylene-vinyl acetate resin composition~~, which comprises a saponified ethylene-vinyl acetate resin and from 0.1 to 3000 ppm, based on the total amount of the saponified ethylene-vinyl acetate resin, of a compound having a molecular weight of at most 1000 and having at least one conjugated double bond, wherein the saponified ethylene vinyl acetate resin has an a methoxy alkoxy group content of from 0.0005 to 1 mol% based on the total moles of monomer units in the resin, an ethylene content of from 5 to 60 mol% based on the total moles of monomer units in the resin, and a degree of saponification of at least 85 mol% based on the number of moles of vinyl acetate monomer units in the resin.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The ~~saponified ethylene-vinyl acetate resin composition~~ of Claim 1, wherein the amount of the compound having a molecular weight of at most 1000 is from 5 to 1500 ppm.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The ~~saponified ethylene-vinyl acetate resin composition~~ of Claim 1, wherein the compound having a molecular weight of at most 1000 is selected from the group consisting of 1-phenylbutadiene, sorbic acid, 2,4-diphenyl-4-methyl-1-pentene, 1,3-diphenyl-1-butene, 2,3 dimethyl-1,3-butadiene, 4-methyl-1,3-butadiene, 1-phenyl-1,3-butadiene, myrcene and mixtures thereof.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The ~~saponified ethylene-vinyl acetate resin composition~~ of Claim 1, wherein the saponified ethylene-vinyl acetate resin has is ~~an alkoxy~~ a methoxy group content of from 0.001 to 0.5 mol%.

Claim 5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The ~~saponified ethylene-vinyl acetate~~ resin composition of Claim 1, wherein ~~the ethylene content is~~ saponified ethylene-vinyl acetate resin comprises from 20 to 55 mol% of polymerized ethylene units.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The ~~saponified ethylene-vinyl acetate~~ resin composition of Claim 1, wherein the degree of saponification is at least 98 mol%.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended) The ~~saponified ethylene-vinyl acetate~~ resin composition of Claim 1, further comprising 10 to 5000 ppm of ~~a higher fatty acid or derivative thereof~~ at least one second compound selected from the group consisting of higher fatty acids, amides, esters and salts thereof, expressed as the ppm of free fatty acid relative to the total amount of the saponified ethylene-vinyl acetate resin.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended) The ~~saponified ethylene-vinyl acetate~~ resin composition of Claim 8, wherein the amount of ~~higher fatty acid or derivative thereof~~ the second compound is 100 to 1000 ppm.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended) The ~~saponified ethylene-vinyl acetate~~ resin composition of Claim 8, wherein the second compound is derived from a ~~the~~ higher fatty acid has having 8 to 30 carbon atoms.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended) The ~~saponified ethylene-vinyl acetate~~ resin composition of Claim 8, wherein the ~~higher fatty acid or derivative thereof~~ second compound is selected from the group consisting of palmitamides, stearamides, oleamides, linolic amides, linolenic amides, ethylene-bis-stearamide, ethylene-bis-oleamide, sodium stearate, calcium stearate, magnesium linolenate, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended) The ~~saponified ethylene-vinyl acetate~~ resin composition of Claim 1, further comprising from 10 to 5000 ppm, of a boron compound, expressed as the ppm of elemental boron in said boron compound relative to the total amount of the saponified ethylene-vinyl acetate resin.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended) The ~~saponified ethylene-vinyl acetate~~ resin composition of Claim 12, wherein the amount of the boron compound is 100 to 1500 ppm.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended) The ~~saponified ethylene-vinyl acetate~~ resin composition of Claim 12, wherein the boron compound is selected from the group consisting of boric acid, orthoboric acid, metaboric acid, tetra boric acid, alkali metal salts of boric acid, alkaline earth metal salts of boric acid, triethyl borate, trimethyl borate, trialkyl borate, borax, boron hydride, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 15 (Original): A product comprising the saponified ethylene-vinyl acetate resin of Claim 1.

Claim 16 (Original): A product comprising the saponified ethylene-vinyl acetate resin of Claim 8.

Claim 17 (Original): A product comprising the saponified ethylene-vinyl acetate resin of Claim 12.

Claim 18 (Original): The product of Claim 15, wherein the product has a form selected from the group of a monolayer film, a multilayer film, a bag, a pouch, a tube, a thermoformed container, an injection molded bottle, a blow molded bottle, a laminated film, and a parison.

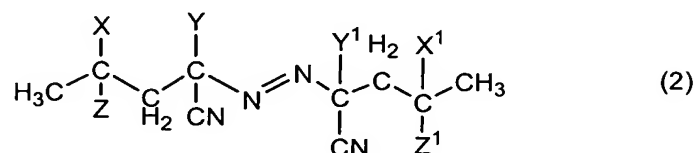
Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A method for producing the ~~saponified ethylene-vinyl acetate resin~~ composition of claim 1 comprising:

polymerizing a monomer mixture comprising ethylene and vinyl acetate in the presence of a polymerization initiator having an methoxy ~~alkoxy~~ group, thereby forming an ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer;

adding a compound having a molecular weight of at most 1000 and at least one conjugated double bond to the ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer; then

saponifying the ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer containing a compound having a molecular weight of at most 1000 and at least one conjugated double bond, thereby forming a saponified ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 19, wherein the polymerization initiator having an ~~alkoxy~~ methoxy group has a structure according to formula (2):



wherein X, X¹, Y, Y¹ each independently represent an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms, and Z and Z¹ each independently represent an alkoxy group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms and at least one of Z and Z¹ is methoxy.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 20, wherein the polymerization initiator having ~~an alkoxy~~ a methoxy group is ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ 2,2'-azobis(4-methoxy-2,4-dimethylvaleronitrile), ~~2,2'-azobis(4-ethoxy-2,4-diethylvaleronitrile), and 2,2'-azobis(4,4'-diethoxy-2-methylvaleronitrile).~~

Claim 22 (Original): The method of Claim 19 further comprising:
adding a higher fatty acid or derivative thereof and/or a boron compound to said saponified ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer.

23. (Currently Amended) A method of extruding a product comprising ~~saponified ethylene-vinyl acetate~~ resin composition of Claim 1 comprising:

extruding the saponified ethylene-vinyl acetate resin in a single-layer extrusion apparatus or multi-layer coextrusion apparatus.

24. (Currently Amended) A method of extruding a product comprising ~~saponified ethylene-vinyl acetate~~ resin composition of Claim 8 comprising:

extruding the saponified ethylene-vinyl acetate resin in a single-layer extrusion apparatus or multi-layer coextrusion apparatus.

25. (Currently Amended) A method of extruding a product comprising ~~saponified ethylene-vinyl acetate~~ resin composition of Claim 12 comprising:

extruding the saponified ethylene-vinyl acetate resin in a single-layer extrusion apparatus or multi-layer coextrusion apparatus.